



# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Annan tells Syria of horror after massacre

DAMASCUS (AFP) - UN-Arab envoy Kofi Annan expressed "horror" at the Houla massacre of more than 100 people as he began a visit to Syria on Monday aimed at salvaging his battered peace plan.

Annan called the "tragic" massacre in the central town "an appalling moment with profound consequences."

The former UN chief said those responsible for the massacre must be held to account, and urged "everyone with a gun" to abide by his six-point blueprint to help end 15 months of bloodshed.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem met Annan and the head of the UN observer mission in Syria, Major General Robert Mood.

Muallem explained "the truth of what is happening in Syria and the attacks against law and order which are aimed at sowing chaos... (despite) the reforms that Syria has adopted in all areas," the official SANA news agency reported.

World leaders have voiced outrage over the deaths of at least 108 people in the central

town of Houla on Friday and Saturday, among them 49 children and 34 women, many blown to bits or shot dead at point blank range.

Annan told reporters in Damascus that he was "personally shocked and horrified by the tragic incident in Houla," saying the Security Council was right to condemn it.

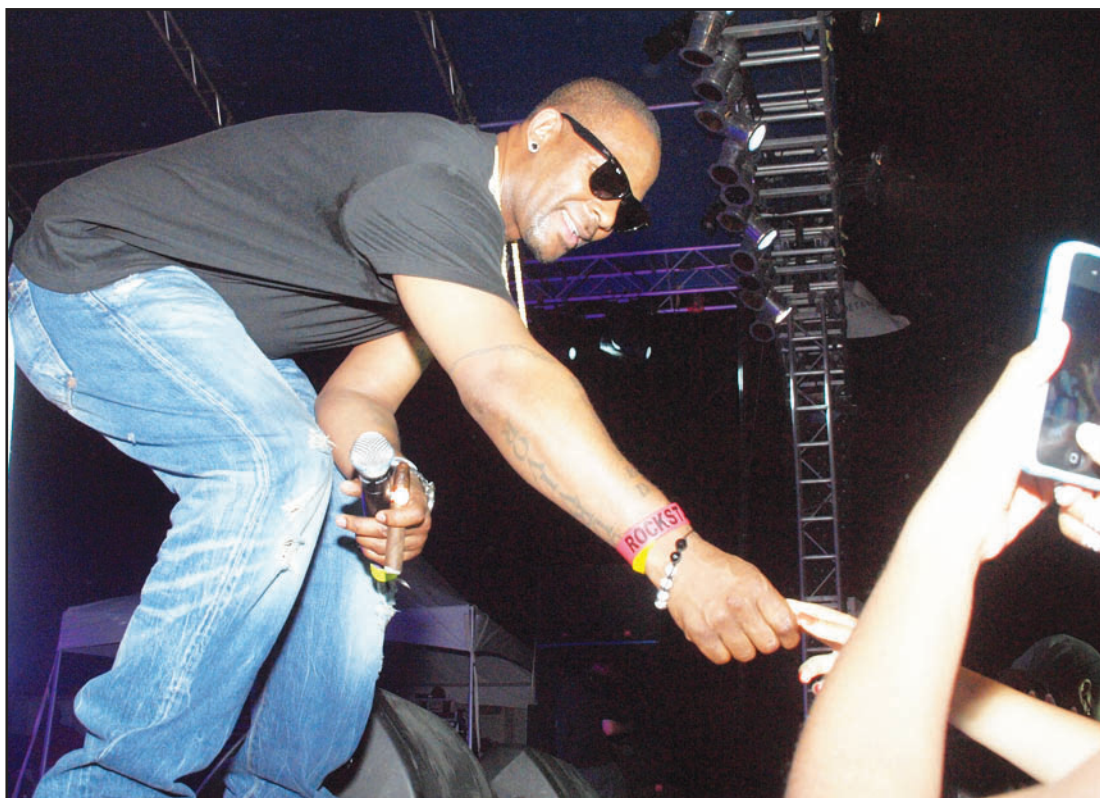
Annan's peace plan was supposed to begin with a ceasefire from April 12, but this has been broken daily.

A watchdog said another 36 people were killed on Monday, a day after 87 died in one of the deadliest days of the putative truce.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 34 of Sunday's dead were killed in random shelling of the central city of Hama by troops retaliating for losses.

It said clashes raged on Monday in regions including Idlib in the northwest and Daraa in the south, where an anti-regime revolt first erupted in March 2011. The Observatory says more than 13,000 people have been killed in violence since.

## R. Kelly Rockin' the house for a grand finale to SBMF 2012



R Kelly gets closer to his devoted fans

It has always been the tradition of the Soul Beach Music Festival to end their series of Memorial Day weekend concerts with a flourish; the riveting performances of Melanie Fiona and R. Kelly at the Nikky Beach Amphitheater on Sunday evening certainly did not disappoint what easily had to be more than 10,000 people packing the beach on Aruba's south shore and the festival's best attended concert to date.

This year, the Aruba Tourism Authority and Soul Beach producers added and extra bit of excitement. Concert goers were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire for which they received an attractive gift and the opportunity to win a trip back to Aruba, including hotel and airfare.

Islanders and vacationers came to see and be seen, while enjoying great music from local band Youth Ex-

treme, who opened the show. However it was the show-stopping performances of Melanie Fiona and R. Kelly, who gave their all to the audiences that will be endlessly tweeted, particularly by those lucky female fans who answered R Kelly's call.

"Where are all the ladies?" he shouted after a few minutes into his first number.

"We're here to rock the house and how can I do it without these great sexy ladies close by? I am not going on another minute until I have those ladies close by; I am not singing to cameras, I am singing to ladies-where are those sexy ladies?"

Continued on pg 3

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## A poignant moment "For the Fallen" on Memorial Day 2012



Trevor Lynch takes over for deceased father in law Bobby Nadal



Griff and Maureen March to the sea

In 2004 a small, quiet ceremony was first conducted at the Costa Linda Beach by a group of four veterans who have since earned the informal title "The Costa Linda



Griff McElroy, Maureen Nadal, Frank Nini and Trevor Lynch

Vets." The original group of Frank Nini, Rich Lamonth, Bobby Nadal and Griff McElroy, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, were joined by their good friend Henry Lavergne of Canada in organizing the event that has grown annually in attendance since their first time. The intention was to provide a moment for all those who were on Aruba for U.S. Memorial Day to have a solemn moment to loved ones lost to

war, no matter what uniform they wore or under which flag they fought.

Yesterday, at 10:00 a.m. they again welcomed a good sized group who joined them in calling "The Detail" to attention.

This year, Bobby Nadal's role as Master of Arms was taken over by his son-in-law, Trevor Lynch, as Bobby sadly passed away earlier in the year.

Two stanza of the poem, "For the Fallen" by English

Poet Robert Laurence Binyon was read:

*"They went with songs to battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe."*

*"They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them"*

The dozens who had gathered on the beach in remembrance were asked to all repeat the last phrase as one, and many wiped away a tear.

This year, Maureen Nadal, Bobby's widow, joined Griff McElroy in his march into the sea to release a memorial wreath, a gift from the Costa Linda staff, and scatter Bobby's ashes in the seaside they had all come to love so dearly.

After a call to attention for the playing of Taps, Trevor dismissed The Detail until it is time again next year to stand in formation and remember.

The Costa Linda Vets express their gratitude to all those who support them and have shown an interest in their efforts, as well as the condolence for Bobby Nadal. Anyone interested in keeping up with the annual Memorial Day observance on Aruba or other activities can follow their Facebook page titled "Aruba Memorial Day" and contact them at Memorial.Day.Detail@gmail.com.

By Rosalie Klein

Sunday **KOFFIE MORGEN**

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Tuesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament**

Wednesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT**

Thursday **Daily Raffle \$ 500** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS**

Friday **BlackJack Tournament**

Saturday **KOFFIE MORGEN**



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# Tuesday

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# Tournament

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## Chavez notches up three million Twitter followers

CARACAS (AFP) - Firebrand Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez now has more than three million followers on Twitter, making him the most popular Latin American politician on the site -- a milestone he celebrated on Monday.

"To the three million followers, I sent a special thank you! We will use this platform to pursue our battle of ideas!" Chavez wrote early Monday, shortly after the number of followers topped the three million mark.

At midday, the @chavez-candanga account had 3,001,091 followers.

Early in the day, state television VTV aired an ad announcing the milestone.

Chavez, who is battling cancer, opened the account in April 2010 to counter the opposition's use of social media. He quickly attracted hundreds of thousands of followers, some of whom asked him for jobs or housing.

The flood of messages prompted the leftist leader to open a special service tasked

with reading and answering all of the tweets.

Chavez, 57, has been in power in 1999. He is running for reelection as a "revolutionary socialist" in October against Henrique Capriles, the youthful Miranda state governor and center-left candidate for the united opposition.

Chavez has been especially active on Twitter since his first cancer surgery in Cuba to remove a tumor from his pelvic area in June 2011.

He underwent a second operation on the same area in February after it recurred, and since then has made several trips to Cuba -- Venezuela's closest ally -- for radiation treatment.

Chavez is the most prominent face of the left in Latin America and has rallied a group of like-minded leaders as a counterweight to the United States.

He said last week that he would officially throw his hat into the ring for the October 7 presidential election.

## National Honor Society/ National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony



The International School of Aruba continues to put an emphasis on excellence.

On Wednesday, May 23, 2012, the Aruba Chapter of the National Honor Society/National Junior Honor Society inducted 11 new members. To be considered for this honor, students must earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. In addition to the strong academic record, students must also display leadership, service and character. Evidence of this is submitted in a portfolio that showcases the student.

While the faculty of ISA has an opportunity for input,

the final decision is made by the Faculty Council. Each of these students carries various forms of leadership and service which enhance his/her character.

Each of these students also brings individual skills and experience ranging from student council, Model United Nations, minister in

### National Honor Society Inductees

Aditya Gupta  
Oriella Mansur  
Maria Andrade  
Leo Aquirre  
Richard Murphy

the Youth Parliament, and volunteering for various organizations, to mention a few. We are proud of their academic records and accomplishments. We welcome these new members who bring new energy in support of our continuing work as National Honor Society members.

### National Junior Honor Society Inductees

Muskan Dubey  
Rachel Maduro  
Pavan Sawilani  
Melissa Salamo  
Kunal Nathani  
Vera Colmenter



## Aruba Hyatt Regency Resort presented the "Miles Award" to deserving associates



Recently, Aruba Hyatt Regency proudly presented the prestigious "Miles Award" to a number of their dedicated associates for their numerous years of service. The special recognition is given to all employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service with the resort. Aruba's Minister of Tourism was also present for the festive occasion and had words of appre-

ciation and congratulations for the happy associates.

The Minister, in his remarks, indicated that each employee plays an important role in our tourism. Thanks to their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work Aruba has become one of the favorite destinations in the Caribbean.

And, it is their good work that keeps bringing visitors back to the island, sharing in

the responsibility of tourism growth on Aruba, as well as the economy.

The spirit in the ballroom was truly festive with great food and gifts of appreciation for the proud honorees. The Morning News joins with the rest of Aruba in congratulating each one of our dedicated tourism ambassadors at the Aruba Hyatt Regency Resort & Casino.



### Lunch Buffet

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### Dinner

Monday - Sunday  
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## R. Kelly Rockin' the house for a grand finale to SBMF 2012

Continued from pg 1



Melanie Fiona

The press section was immediately cleared and all the female audience members who had been lined up just beyond the barrier were ushered in close to the stage and treated to a handshake or caress from their idol. He played directly to the audience, continually acknowledging their presence and his gratitude for their appreciation. Though he demonstrated his vast range with a number of hits, it was his heartfelt rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly" that had thousands of voices joining in on the chorus and soaring through the night. It was indeed a thrilling performance and a spectacular end to this year's festival.



Local Band Youth Extreme

By Rosalie Klein



## 'Men In Black 3' tops N. America box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The third installment in the successful "Men In Black" sci-fi adventure franchise blasted away competition to take the top spot at the North American box office, industry estimates showed this last weekend.

The blockbuster stars Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones reprising their roles as secret agents battling alien species living on Earth, this time joined by Josh Brolin when the adventures goes back in time to 1969.

"Men In Black 3" made \$55 million in its first three days of release over the long Memorial Day holiday weekend, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

It took the number one rank away from record-breaking comic book superhero blockbuster "The Avengers," which slipped to second in its third weekend with a \$37 million take.

The film has become the highest-grossing movie in Walt Disney Studios' history with global earnings so far of \$1.29 billion, the fourth-highest total of all time.

"Battleship," dropped to the number three spot in its second weekend with \$10.75 million in box office receipts.

4. "The Dictator," with \$9.6 million in its second weekend; 5. "Chernobyl Diaries"; 6. "Dark Shadows"; 7. "What to Expect When You're Expecting" with \$7.1 million.; 8. "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," 9. "The Hunger Games;" 10. "Think Like A Man" with \$1.4 million in earnings.

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The dynamic team of Digicel was very busy last weekend informing the public of their tremendous campaign.

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## International News

### Tunisian president urges Swiss to restitute funds swiftly



GENEVA (AFP) - Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki on Monday urged Switzerland to accelerate the restitution of frozen assets belonging to ousted president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his country.

"We want this money returned as soon as possible,"

Marzouki told Swiss television RTS.

"If it's returned in 50 years' time like with money of the Jews, that's pointless," he said, referring to Jewish assets deposited in Swiss banks during World War II which were only returned to Holocaust survivors or their descendants five decades later.

He underlined that his country is in pressing needs of the funds.

"We have 800,000 unemployed people. The regions are about to explode because people cannot stand any more misery," he said.

On January 19, 2011, Switzerland froze assets belonging to the Ben Ali regime amid the authorities' repression of peaceful demonstra-

tions.

Bern said in October that some 60 million francs (48.7 million euros) worth of Tunisian assets had been blocked.

Marzouki said the figures were "derisory."

"I think we are talking about just 10 percent of the assets which have been deposited in Swiss banks," he said.

The Swiss foreign ministry said in response that the country "is determined to return as soon as possible the assets currently blocked in Switzerland the illicit origins of which have been established."

Marzouki will be in Geneva to attend the International Labour Organization's annual meeting which opens Wednesday.

### Basque party condemns arrest of ETA military chief

BAYONNE (AFP) - Basque separatist group ETA's outlawed political wing lashed out at France Monday for the arrest of a man authorities say is the ETA's military commander, calling it a sign of ongoing repression.

The Batasuna party "condemns in the strongest terms" the arrests of Oritz Gurruchaga Gogorza and his deputy Xabier Aramburu, spokesman Jean-Francois Lefort told AFP, after French and Spanish authorities announced the arrests Sunday following a joint operation in southwest France.

Lefort called on French President Francois Hollande's new administration to "begin finding a solution to the issue of freeing Basque political prisoners" and to "immediately stop all forms of repression".

"The Hollande government, rather than take a positive atti-

tude on setting up a peace process, is managing the Basque issue by the old instruction manual, written by the Spanish government, whose objective is to continue solely down the path of repression, which is doomed to failure," he said.

Batasuna is banned in Spain but legal in France.

ETA is blamed for 829 killings during a four-decade armed campaign for an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southern France.

Gurruchaga and Aramburu are being held for questioning in the southwestern city of Bayonne, a source close to the case told AFP Monday.

French law allows suspects in terrorism cases to be held for questioning for up to 96 hours.

Their arrests bring to 15 the number of people arrested on

suspicion of ETA ties since the group announced "the definitive cease of its armed activity" in October last year.

Despite the announcement, ETA has not surrendered its weapons or disbanded.

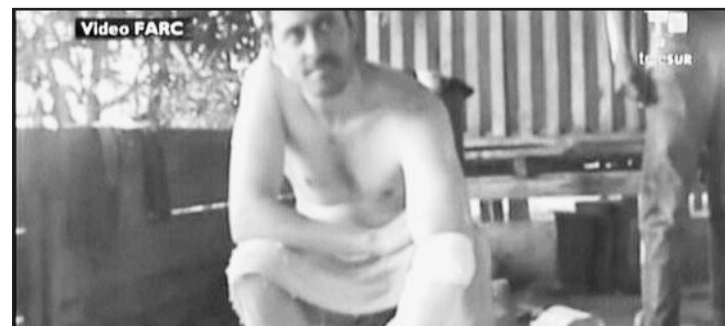
ETA is pressing for direct talks with France and Spain, but both governments have rejected negotiations and called for the group to disband.

French Interior Minister Manuel Valls is due to visit Spain on Tuesday to meet with his counterpart Jorge Fernandez Diaz.

The French interior ministry said Monday the two would discuss joint police operations against ETA.

At a May 18 meeting of European interior ministers in Munich, Valls called ETA a "terrorist organisation" and said France's crackdown on the group would not soften under Hollande's administration.

### 'Proof of life' of French reporter held in Colombia



BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombian rebels on Monday sent "proof of life" of a French journalist held captive for a month in the jungle, days before his expected release.

Video footage broadcast on the Latin American cable TV network Telesur showed France 24 reporter Romeo Langlois in good health despite a bandage on one arm from an injury apparently sustained during his capture.

"I am a civilian, a French international journalist," Langlois said, smiling as he spoke in Spanish in front of a camera in a FARC jungle camp.

"You know what you're exposed to when you undertake this kind of activity," he said, referring to his reporting mission embedded in a Colombian army unit. "But the truth is I didn't think it was going to get so terrible."

Langlois was captured at the end of April during a clash between FARC rebels and the army unit he was filming.

A delegation comprising a French envoy, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and former Colombian senator Piedad Cordoba are being dispatched to fetch 35-year-old Langlois on Wednesday.

"We just have to hope everything goes well on the day," French ambassador Pierre-Jean Vandoorne told radio Caracol, adding that he expected to meet the unidentified envoy later on Monday along with other members of the mission.

Initially, the FARC guerril-

las declared Langlois a "prisoner of war."

The reporter was wearing a Colombian army helmet and a bullet-proof vest at the time of his capture, which he shed before surrendering to the guerrillas and declaring he was a civilian, according to the authorities.

In mid-May, the FARC relented and said it was prepared to release him as long as it was provided with the usual security guarantees such as a suspension of Colombian military operations in the region.

Military officials have agreed to suspend operations from 6:00 pm Tuesday until Thursday at 6:00 am in the area near the planned release in Colombia's southern jungle.

The exact location where the reporter will be freed has not been announced.

The last French national held by the FARC was Ingrid Betancourt, a former Colombian senator and presidential candidate. She was abducted during her presidential campaign in February 2002, along with her assistant, Clara Rojas.

Betancourt and 14 other hostages -- including three US military contractors -- were freed in an operation by the Colombian military in July 2008.

Founded in 1964, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia is the oldest and largest leftist guerrilla group in the country with some 9,200 fighters. In February, it renounced the practice of kidnappings for ransom.



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## International News

### 13 children among 19 dead in Qatar mall fire



DOHA (AFP) - A fire that erupted at a nursery in a huge Venice-themed shopping centre in the expat-dominated Qatari capital of Doha on Monday killed 19 people including 13 children, the interior ministry said.

Four of the children who died were Spanish, said a foreign ministry spokeswoman in Madrid, while Paris announced that a three-year-old French child also perished.

The blaze left "19 dead, including 13 children, among them seven girls and six boys, in addition to four female teachers," the interior ministry said on its Twitter page, citing Qatar's health minister.

Two members of the civil defence also died in the fire at the capital's Villaggio mall, it said.

The fire broke out at a nursery, state minister for the interior Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Thani told reporters.

He said it became clear that "20 children were at the nursery in the complex and all efforts were concentrated on evacuating those kids," adding that firefighters had to break through the roof to get to trapped children after a staircase to the first-floor nursery collapse also pointing out that police and civil defence reached the site within minutes.

utes.

Dense smoke inside the mall combined with the fierce temperature from the flames made reaching the trapped children very difficult, a civil defence representative told a news conference.

Health Minister Khaled al-Qahtani said all fatalities were caused by asphyxiation, adding that 17 people were injured, mostly firefighters.

Al-Thani told reporters that the "public prosecution has taken charge of the investigation."

Crown Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani ordered the setting up of a special commission to probe the deadly blaze, the Doha-based Al-Jazeera satellite television station reported.

Villaggio Mall was opened in 2006. The Venetian-styled centre boasts a mall area of 125,000 square metres. Its main feature is a canal on which genuine gondolas ferry visitors through the mall.

Thanks to its wealth of oil and natural gas reserves, combined with a tiny population of less than two million, mostly foreigners, Qatar is one of the world's richest countries in terms of per capita income, coming second only to tiny Liechtenstein.



**London : A man (C) is led away by British police officers outside the High Court in London on May 28, 2012 after he burst into the chamber where the Leveson Inquiry was hearing evidence from former British prime minister Tony Blair. David Lawley-Wakelin, a film-maker and teacher of film, who has made a documentary about the Iraq war, disrupted proceedings on Monday when he emerged through a rear door to shout: "Excuse me. This man should be arrested for war crimes." The 49-year-old then made allegations about Blair being "paid off" by JP Morgan for his role in the conflict, yelling: "The man is a war criminal," before he was dragged away. Blair immediately denied the allegations.**

AFP PHOTO

### Obama's Memorial Day message: troops are coming home



ARLINGTON, Virginia (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said Monday on Memorial Day that troops are coming home after a decade of war and must be respected, with no repeat of the "national shame" that greeted many Vietnam veterans.

In two speeches to mark the annual commemoration of fallen and missing soldiers, Obama said US troops were no longer fighting in Iraq and that he was "winding down" America's war in Afghanistan.

As a result, he said, the focus must now shift to ensuring a future for those returning from the battlefield.

"For the first time in nine years, Americans are not fighting and dying in Iraq," Obama said after laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns, in Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington.

"After a decade under the dark clouds of war, we can see the light of a new day on the horizon."

After sweeping to power in 2008 partly owing to his promise to end the war in Iraq, Obama followed through by bringing the final US soldiers home last year.

Obama is highlighting that honored promise, and a plan to get US combat troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014, to bolster his leadership

credentials as he faces reelection in November.

But the president, who also serves as commander-in-chief of US forces, noted that for relatives of the fallen, the end of America's foreign wars may hold little consolation.

A few hours later, in a speech at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, he reached out to veterans of that conflict, which spiraled out of control in the 1950s and claimed the lives of tens of thousands.

"One of the most painful chapters in our history was Vietnam -- most particularly, how we treated our troops who served there," Obama told a crowd at the Vietnam wall, where the names of 58,000 soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines are engraved.

"You were often blamed for a war you didn't start, when you should have been commended for serving your country with valor. You were sometimes blamed for misdeeds of a few, when the honorable service of the many should have been praised," he said.

Obama said the US Department of Veterans Affairs aimed to ensure that those who survive conflict return home and gain the support needed to lead successful civilian lives.





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## Health & Living

# Women ink in enthusiasm for tattoos



NEW YORK (AFP) - They may need more work to look like screen beauty Angelina Jolie or pop star Lady Gaga, but growing numbers of women are taking a step toward emulating the stars by having their skin tattooed.

At the annual New York City Tattoo Convention last weekend, tattoo artists from Brazil, Europe, Japan and other spots around the globe unveiled their wares to a mixed crowd, and women were a strong presence.

Lucy Challenger came all the way from London to finish a huge tattoo that had been started two years earlier by a Chinese artist, who herself had flown in from Los Angeles.

Challenger, a 28-year-old actress, lay almost unclothed on her stomach, headphones on and an iPad in front of her, while the artist worked on the design, a phoenix rising up from her left buttock. Her session lasted eight hours, from 4:00 pm to midnight, and cost \$1,000 -- not to mention the price of an air ticket from London.

The work will have taken a total of 35 hours under the tattoo needle, two trips to Los Angeles, one session in London and one in New York, to-

talling thousands of dollars.

US women took over men for the first time this year in terms of numbers of tattoos, with 23 percent of females bearing a tattoo, compared to 19 percent of men, according to a Harris poll.

Bill Tarr, owner of Totem Tattoo, said he saw the trend in his salon and that he'd be happy to see only women.

Their tattoos are "not as violent", he said. "It doesn't express aggression and I like that. There is enough of that going on in the real world. I like to do feminine and positive tattoo things."

-- "It's a confidence thing" --

Tarr was tattooing the neck of Ruth Washington, 25. She had a picture of the seaside to remember her grandparents on her arms and her parents' marriage vows on her back. She said she favors butterflies, fairies, rabbits and especially color.

Both Washington and Bill Tarr's wife Ruth said female tattoos are now mainstream.

"People used to stare at me, but now it's so much more accepted," said Washington, who shelled out \$3,500 for the tattoos on one of her legs. "It used to bother me, but not any more."

For some, tattoos still feel rebellious. Rosemarie Osborn, a former policewoman, said she'd taken the plunge at 35 to celebrate her divorce.

Wendy Richard got hers on arrival in New York from her home state of Wisconsin.

"It's a culture thing and I am part of that culture," she said. "It shows you are strong and tough... It's a confidence thing, it shows you are not afraid of pain, and that you can make choices for life."

## Exercising in the Heat



•Drink plenty of water before, during and after exercise.

•Don't exercise as vigorously as you normally do, especially during the first few days of hotter weather.

•Pay attention to factors other than temperature, including humidity.

•Exercise early in the morning or late in the evening, to beat the hottest temperatures.

•Wear lightweight clothing that fits loosely.

•Listen to your body and take a rest when you need it.

# French smokers unite against curbs



ban us from parks with children, some hotels are non-smoking, soon a smoker won't be able to rent a flat and there's even talk of banning smoking while you drive," she said.

With the first round of France's legislative election on June 10, the new group is hoping to catch the attention of the country's politi-

cians.

Masseron said there were an average of 21,600 smokers in every constituency -- "which is a lot when you know that most MPs are elected by a margin smaller than 500 votes".

According to Masseron, the social cost of smoking is half the amount -- 13.6 billion euros (\$17 billion) -- raked in by the state thanks to taxes on tobacco products.

Government statistics say 73,000 French people die every year from smoking-related illnesses.

PARIS (AFP) - French smokers have formed a lobby to "defend their rights" against what they perceive as unfair curbs imposed by the state, the group's leaders said Sunday.

The Union for the Rights of Adult Smokers (UDFA) says it represents a potential 12.5 million voters and intends to fight against the spread of no-smoking zones or rising cigarette prices.

"We want to defend our freedom," chairwoman Nathalie Masseron told AFP.

"We are being barred from cafe terraces, some want to

# Cambodian girl, 10, dies from bird flu: WHO

PHNOM PENH (AFP) - A 10-year-old Cambodian girl has died from bird flu, the World Health Organization said Monday, the country's third fatality from the virulent disease this year.

The child developed a fever and shortness of breath on May 20 and died on Sunday, the WHO said in a joint statement with the Cambodian health ministry.

Hospital tests confirmed she had contracted the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

"There is evidence of recent deaths among poultry in the village and the patient prepared sick chicken for food prior to becoming sick," the statement said.

The girl, from southwestern

Kampong Speu province, is the 21st person in Cambodia to become infected with the H5N1 virus since 2003. Nineteen of those cases have been fatal.

The H5N1 strain has killed 357 people worldwide since 2003, according to WHO statistics.

Concerns about avian influenza have risen in the region with China, Vietnam and Indonesia all reporting deaths from the virus this year.

The virus typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form easily transmissible between humans, with the potential to kill millions in a pandemic.



## Sci-Tech

# Dripping crucifix sparks Indian blasphemy row



**Sanal Edamaruku has spent the last three decades exposing what he says are fake miracles**

MUMBA (AFP) - Angry Catholics have accused an Indian sceptic of blasphemy after he argued a dripping crucifix was caused by faulty plumbing rather than divine intervention, leaving him facing a possible prison term.

Thousands of believers flocked to a suburban street in the west of Mumbai in March, when drops of water began to fall from the feet of Jesus on the cross, drinking the prized liquid in the hope that it had holy powers.

Sanal Edamaruku, president of the Indian Rationalist Association, suggested otherwise. He said he inspected the site and found the source of the water to be leaking toilet drainage, making it dangerous to imbibe.

"It's a case of miracle-mongering," Edamaruku told AFP

from his home in New Delhi. "Any kind of miracle-mongering is ultimately to get money and power."

Accusing him of spreading "anti-Catholic venom" during televised debates on the crucifix, outraged religious groups in Mumbai have filed police complaints that could see Edamaruku jailed for up to three years under India's blasphemy law.

"Don't try to bring dark ages in India," Edamaruku had warned in a TV discussion.

One complaint was lodged with police by Joseph Dias, general secretary of the Catholic-Christian Secular Forum, who objected to the rationalist's "very obvious and stridently anti-Christian bias".

In a statement emailed to AFP, Dias denied the dripping crucifix had been hailed as a

miracle -- a status that requires an official Church pronouncement -- but he also dismissed Edamaruku's theory.

"A plausible explanation which makes sense is still elusive," he wrote.

Superstitious beliefs are still widespread in India, a fast-developing and officially secular country where Hinduism dominates but a diverse range of ethnic groups, religious practices and languages co-exist.

As a prominent sceptical campaigner Edamaruku is no stranger to controversy.

His association, which claims 100,000-plus members, was set up in 1949 to campaign for scientific reasoning over superstition -- a job that has become his mission in life.

The 56-year-old has spent the last three decades exposing what he says are fake miracles and fraudulent gurus across India, whose top mystics and yoga masters have amassed huge followings and fortunes.

Edamaruku's targets have included powerful spiritual leaders such as the late Sathya Sai Baba, who was revered by millions and famed for producing baubles out of thin air.

Now Edamaruku welcomes the moves against him as "an opportunity, not a thing to be afraid of", he said, and is challenging India's blasphemy law.

The legislation bans "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs" -- a rule Edamaruku believes runs counter to freedom of expression.

His lawyers are preparing to lobby India's Supreme Court to overturn the colonial-era section of the penal code, as well as asking a court in Delhi to prevent his arrest.

Edamaruku said the Catholics' response had been "like Islamic fundamentalists speaking" and drew parallels with the opposition to Mumbai-born British author Salman Rushdie.

Rushdie's 1988 book "The Satanic Verses" remains banned in India for allegedly insulting Islam and the writer withdrew from a literary festival in January this year after death threats and angry protests.

"I always think there are two Indias," said Edamaruku. "The 21st century, which is progressive, modern, scientific" and "17th-century India, which is pulling us back to the dark ages of intolerance, bigotry, superstition".



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## Kazakhstan blocks Russian satellite launches: reports



**Russian police officers guard the Soyuz TMA-22 rocket of the International Space Station**

pean meteorological satellite MetOp-B that had been due May 23, the launch of Belarusian, Canadian, German and two Russian satellites on June 7 and the launch of Russian satellite Resurs-P in August.

It is not clear how and when the seven satellites will now be launched.

There is no suggestion however that the dispute will affect manned launches from Baikonur which also use a Soyuz rocket but whose debris usually falls in a different zone.

Kommersant said one possible reason for the dispute is Russia's building of a new cosmodrome Vostochny in its own Far East territory which when completed will provide an alternative launch site to Baikonur.

It said Kazakhstan fears that the new cosmodrome will encourage Russia to break the lease agreement on Baikonur, which is due to last until 2050 and sees Moscow pay Astana almost \$115 million in rent annually.

Baikonur was the historic Soviet cosmodrome from where Yuri Gagarin made the first manned space flight in 1961. Moscow kept control of the facility under an agreement with Kazakhstan after the collapse of the USSR.

MOSCOW (AFP) - Kazakhstan, which hosts Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome, is blocking three upcoming Russian satellite launches because of a dispute over the drop zone for rocket debris, reports said on Monday.

The first stages of the Soyuz rockets that were scheduled to launch a total of seven satellites were due to fall down over a region of north Kazakhstan that is only occasionally used as a drop zone for debris.

Kazakhstan argues that in order for the zone to be used the two sides must sign an additional agreement to the leasing accord it has with Russia, the Kommersant daily and Interfax news agency reported.

"Due to this we are simply unable to carry out not just our own but international obligations," a source in the Russian space agency Roscosmos told Kommersant.

The launches that are set to be shelved or already postponed are the launch of Euro-



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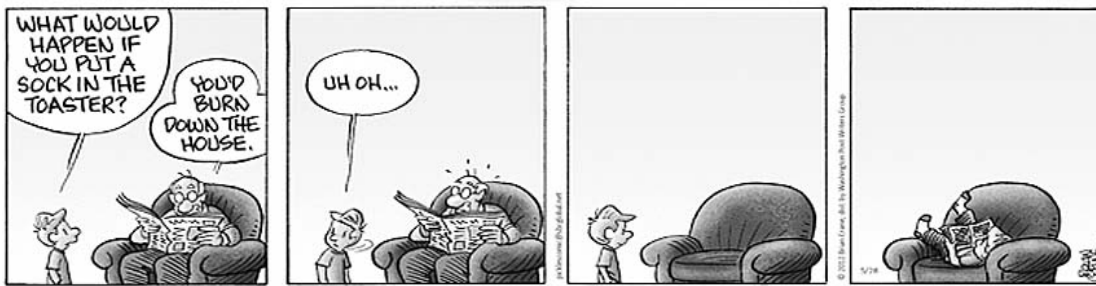
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## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1. Feeling blue
4. Lowest tide
8. TX to NY dir.
11. Pub brew
12. Eight, to Eduardo
13. Mineral fuel
14. Prepare for Christmas (hyph.)
16. Associations (abbr.)
17. \_\_\_ Claire, Wisconsin
18. Miner's paydirt
20. Respond
23. How politicians read the polls
26. Wagon shaft
27. More formal
29. Health club

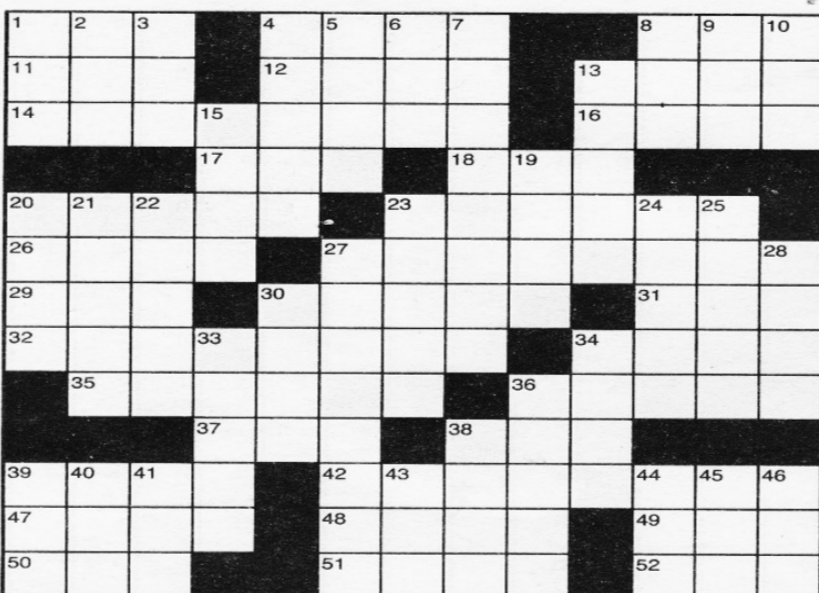
30. Plow pioneer
31. \_\_\_ Paulo
32. Central American country
34. Mayonnaise holders
35. Items used to kill vampires
36. Like a forest glade
37. Dover's state (abbr.)
38. "\_\_\_, humbug!"
39. Canasta term
42. Land of Lincoln
47. Dalton of "Falcon Crest"
48. Not warm

49. Amtrak and Conrail (abbr.)
50. "CSI" network
51. Luggage markers
52. Sheep's comment

## DOWN

1. Slump
2. "The Greatest"
3. Trio after C
4. "\_\_\_, Jose!" (2 wds.)
5. Beige color
6. Cry of discovery
7. Puffy baked goods
8. Neither's pal

9. Scold
10. Chicago trains
13. What females on campus used to be called
15. Prefix for gram or port
19. Leave one's chair
20. Sign of an allergy
21. Former Montreal baseball players
22. Cactus, e.g.
23. Vicinities
24. Bonet and Hartman
25. Decade divisions
27. Panhandler
28. Pink, as cheeks
30. British nobleman
33. \_\_\_ longlegs
34. Wayne or Travolta
36. Posts a letter
38. Shared online journal
39. Scotsman's nickname
40. Recede
41. Pounds (abbr.)
43. Mauna \_\_\_
44. Sphere
45. AARP member's fund
46. Retirement benefit agcy.



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# BOTICA

## DRUG STORES OPEN AFTER HOURS

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 Posada Clinic Aruba  
 Tel.580-2840/Pager 127-2446

INFORMATION  
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Twelve Step Meetings  
 24 hours helpline 583-8989

Fellowship Clinic S.N.  
 Free treatment of  
 Alcoholism  
 and Drug Addiction  
 Anonymity guaranteed  
 Tel. 584-5440

## SOS TELEAYUDO SOS

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 583-1190  
 Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.  
 Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

## CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day  
 Care Center  
 Tel: 5696910

Important  
 Telephone  
 Numbers

## HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital  
 Tel. 5274000

## EMERGENCY

Telephone 911  
 POLICE HDQS  
 Telephone 100

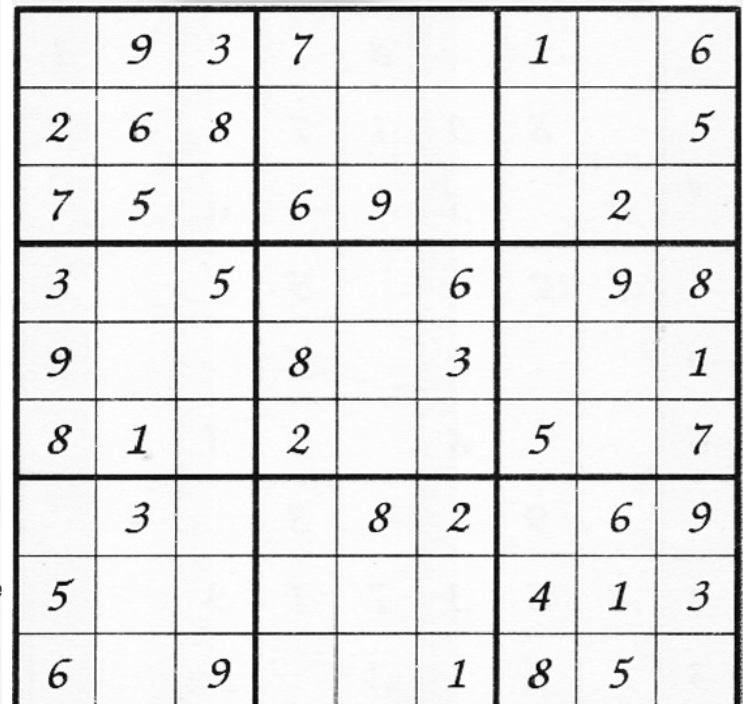
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 professional taxi services  
 Tel. 588-0035

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 Sabana Liber 8 in Noord  
 Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

7	5	8	1	6	9	3	2	4
2	6	3	9	7	5	1	8	4
6	9	2	7	8	5	4	1	3
3	1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8
1	7	9	8	5	3	4	2	6
8	6	7	9	1	5	2	3	4
4	2	8	6	9	1	5	7	3
5	3	6	1	4	8	9	7	2
9	8	1	5	2	7	3	6	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# Oil prices rise on Iran tensions, weaker dollar

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices rose on Monday as major crude producer Iran and Western powers failed to reach agreement over Tehran's nuclear programme and as the dollar weakened against the euro, analysts said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate crude for delivery in July gained 48 cents to \$91.34 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for July won 82 cents to \$107.65 in London afternoon deals.

The issue of Tehran's uranium enrichment and stockpile had been at the centre of talks last week between Iran and major world powers -- who believe the country's nuclear activities mask a push to build atomic weapons.

Iran, already under heavy sanctions for refusing to suspend its nuclear programme, has denied the accusations

and threatened to disrupt Middle East oil supply if it is faced with further sanctions.

"Iran and the Grexit drove oil prices down during the first half of last week, but developments on both issues have turned them into support for oil prices," Tamas Varga, an analyst at brokers PVM Oil Associates, said on Monday.

"It doesn't require a huge understanding of international politics to read Iranian tactics on the nuclear issue, and it was probably naive to think at the beginning of last week that any agreement between Iran and world powers was even remotely possible."

Traders said that oil prices were also supported by a weaker greenback, which makes dollar-denominated crude cheaper for holders of other currencies, boosting demand and in turn prices.

The euro rose versus the

dollar after opinion polls indicated a victory for pro-austerity conservatives in an upcoming Greek general election.

The New Democracy party, which backs a deal with the European Union and International Monetary Fund, is tipped to secure most seats in the June 17 general elections but without an outright majority, opinion polls showed on Sunday.

The new polls point to a New Democracy victory ranging between 23.3 percent and 25.8 percent of the vote, a result that would require the party to seek coalition partners to form a viable government.

Even so, such an outcome in next month's vote could mean that Greece would respect the terms of its EU-IMF bail-out and remain a member of the eurozone.

# Japan's April auto output soars in year after quake

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's major automakers on Monday reported huge production increases for April, as the hard-hit sector recovers from the devastating impact of last year's quake-tsunami.

Heavyweights Toyota, Nissan, and Honda saw huge jumps in output from the same month a year earlier when they slashed production and shuttered plants due to power shortages and a parts supply crunch after the disaster.

Toyota, the nation's biggest automaker, said output at its factories in Japan surged more than three-fold to 352,973 vehicles last month, while overseas pro-

duction rose 64.8 percent in the period to 439,988.

Honda Motor said its production at home skyrocketed 514.4 percent to 87,049 vehicles, while foreign output climbed by 112.5 percent to 264,614.

Nissan's production, meanwhile, jumped 94.0 percent to 85,734 at home, while overseas production rose 39.2 percent to 283,788.

Japan's auto sector suffered one of its worst months on record in April last year, while flooding in Thailand later in the year added to the pain as Japanese manufacturers with plants in the country saw their supply chains hampered.

# World's richest woman increases stake in media firm

SYDNEY (AFP) - The world's richest woman Gina Rinehart has increased her stake in Australian media group Fairfax, the company said Monday, as she lashed out at the chairman after being denied a board seat.

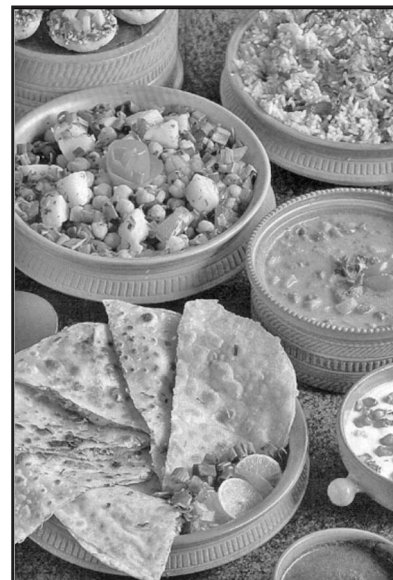
Rinehart, who has a fortune of Aus\$29.17 billion (US\$28.48 billion) according to an annual index by Business Review Weekly, increased her holding to more than 13 percent from the 12.8 percent she bought in February.

Her foray into the market -- she was already Fairfax's largest shareholder -- came

just days after she was overlooked for a Fairfax board seat in favour of former Ernst & Young boss James Millar.

Rinehart is understood to have requested two board seats at Fairfax after becoming its largest shareholder earlier this year.

Her initial move into the company prompted the government to flag stronger media ownership laws, with Communications Minister Stephen Conroy saying Rinehart, who has been critical of the government, wanted to exert her influence.



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# Tunisian president urges Swiss to restitute funds swiftly

GENEVA (AFP) - Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki on Monday urged Switzerland to accelerate the restitution of frozen assets belonging to ousted president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his country.

"We want this money returned as soon as possible," Marzouki told Swiss television RTS.

"If it's returned in 50 years' time like with money of the Jews, that's pointless," he said, referring to Jewish assets deposited in Swiss banks during World War II which were only returned to Holocaust survivors or their descendants five decades later.

He underlined that his country is in pressing needs of the funds.

"We have 800,000 unemployed people. The regions are about to explode because people cannot stand any more misery," he said.

On January 19, 2011, Switzerland froze assets belonging to the Ben Ali regime amid the authorities' repression of peaceful demonstrations.

Bern said in October that some 60 million francs (48.7 million euros) worth of Tunisian assets had been blocked.

Marzouki said the figures were "derisory."

"I think we are talking about just 10 percent of the assets which have been deposited in Swiss banks," he said.

# India explores measures to lure capital flows

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India is looking at ways to attract new capital flows from foreign investors as a way to bolster its ailing currency, a senior finance ministry official said on Monday.

India's rupee hit an unprecedented string of all-time lows last week, falling as low as 56.38 to the dollar but it rose on Monday to a one-week high of 55.18 rupees as investors took profits on the greenback.

The government is expected to announce this week steps that could include easing rules for overseas retail investors to buy local shares or bonds, the official, who did not wish to be named, told reporters.

The government will also conduct road shows in the Gulf countries next month to promote investments in India, he said.

India draws major remit-

tances from Indians living abroad, especially in the Gulf countries, and officials believe there may be scope to attract more money from the region to help support the rupee.

However, analysts say while such measures might help the currency temporarily, they are not a long-term solution to the rupee's weakness which reflects concern over slowing growth and gaping fiscal and trade deficits.

Analysts said the government needs to press ahead with long-delayed reforms such as further opening up the retail and aviation sectors to foreign investment.

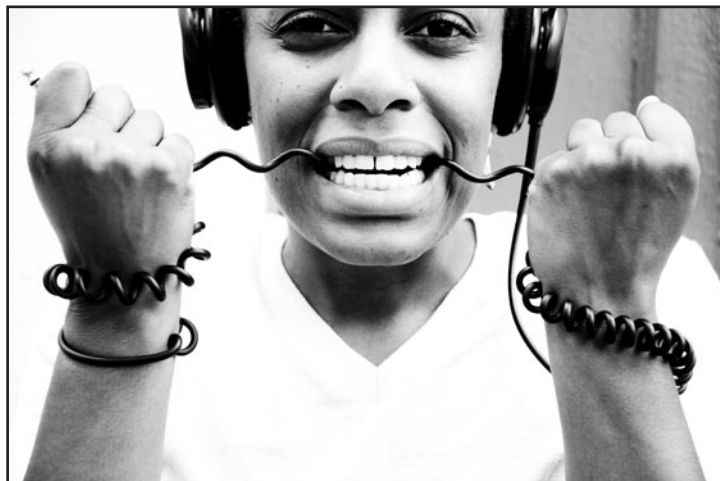
## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

DEMS SOBS EGO  
YEAH KNIT RON  
ELLE TONE IRA  
ISM WHEE  
BACKS ELSA  
AKA NOLA LETA  
LILT DVD EVIL  
INFO DISC ERA  
BESS DUNES  
PEEP ASH  
ILK IDES ATMS  
LEE COTS URGE  
LAS SEAT LIMA

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/28/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.710	1.730	1.750
Britain	GBP	2.730	2.780	2.840
Switzerland	CHF	1.8581	1.8653	1.8733
Netherlands	EUR	2.2143	2.2345	2.2570
Sweden	SEK	0.2385	0.2457	0.2537
Denmark	DKK	0.2910	0.2982	0.3062
Norway	NOK	0.2862	0.2934	0.3014
Japan	JPY	222.87	233.90	226.15
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,000.00 per item.				



## Art Rules Aruba Brings new teachers and expertise this time all the way from Paris, Atlanta and Stockholm!!



Art Rules Aruba, also known as the biggest and most successful Arts Program on Aruba returns for its 3rd edition. Launching July 6th, this year's program seems to be the popular! Within one-week producers of the Pancake Gallery Foundation received more than 60 applications, currently reaching over 100 students to have applied!

Presented by RBC Royal Bank in partnership with the Pancake Gallery Foundation parties are encouraging all of Aruba's aspiring talents between 12-26 to join in and experience a unique and fun way to develop their artistic

talent. Offering intensive workshops in different Art Disciplines this year's program includes Photography, Fashion, Film, Theater, Dance, DJ, Street Art or Music & Performance.

With the best experts and professionals from around the world teaching the classes, this year kids can expect some of the previous Art Directors and a couple new ones, including international female DJ Lynnee Denise and Calvin Klein Fashion Designer Brandon Dalton just to name a few.

DJ Lynnee Denise being the founder of New York based organization WildSeed Cultural Group, is driven by the desire to incorporate non-traditional elements of literature, cultural criticism and ethnic musicology into her work as a dj and the music scene. She has traveled the world DJ-ing along side underground and internationally known artists such as female rapper MC Lyte, DJ Beverly Bond and Stevie Wonder's DJ Spinna. DJ Lynnee Denise will be an inspiration in particular for young female DJ's on Aruba whom are just as interested the turntables as

their male peers.

Also new to the team is this year's fashion designer Brandon Dalton.

Dalton moved from Philadelphia to New York after graduating from the Philadelphia Art Institute. Once in New York, he started working with Enyce Clothing Company as a Graphic Designer for the men's collection. Within a year he was promoted from creating t-shirt graphics to designing small collections that were inspired by his graphics. Brandon studied and learned about fabrics, trims, and the development of garments from concept to final product by visiting factories overseas and taking continuing education classes at FIT and the School of Visual Arts. Soon after, top-clothing companies recruited Brandon to collaborate on various freelance projects such as Sean John, Ecko Unlimited, and Mecca. Currently working with Calvin Klein Jeans as their Senior Graphic Director for apparel, Brandon is responsible for developing the artistic direction for the men's collection. For Art Rules Aruba Brandon will be working with Aruba's young aspiring fashion designers teaching them direction in not just design but also the fashion business by creating mood boards, trend sheets, and personal story lines that will visually represent collections, new looks and personal vision of the soon to fashion designers or producers.

Both DJ and Fashion will offer fun creative and unique ways for Aruba's youth to learn new methods, skills and techniques, as they cultivate their artistic talent, learn new skills and perspectives, all the while shaping their identity in a very hardworking, disciplined yet fun and exiting way.

Art Rules Aruba is a 2-week summer program from July 6th to July 21st.

For information on the program, the disciplines or how to apply visit [www.artrulesaruba.com](http://www.artrulesaruba.com) and make sure to like the Art Rules Aruba Facebook page for daily updates, diaries and exclusives.

## Russia's Mariinsky causes stir with Putin protest opera



SAINTPETERSBURG, (AFP) - Russia's legendary Mariinsky Theatre has surprised audiences with a new production of a classic opera that draws parallels between a ruthless 16th century ruler and Russia's current regime.

At one point in the new production of "Boris Godunov" by Modest Mussorgsky the stage at the Saint Petersburg theatre is swarmed by riot police and protesters brandishing slogans, in a clear reference to the street demonstrations against Vladimir Putin's rule.

The 19th century opera -- based on the play by national poet Alexander Pushkin -- chronicles the rise and fall of Tsar Boris Godunov, who ascended to the throne at the turn of the 16th century after murdering the rightful heir.

The plot, which focuses on the rift between the tsar and his own people, caused the opera to be censored multiple times by the imperial authorities and then in the Soviet Union.

It has now been put on by British director Graham Vick at the Mariinsky Theatre, premiering Friday evening as part of the Stars of the White Nights festival.

It is extremely rare for major Russian opera houses to make contemporary political references in their productions.

The starkest reference to present-day Russia comes in the uniforms of riot police, or OMON, who protect Tsar Godunov and his family from a throng of angry fist-shaking citizens.

"None of the protesters expected that the latest trends of Russian Twitter would be voiced on the conservative opera stage," the Izvestia daily wrote Monday, saying the production "delivers a swinging blow."

While many of the set details allude to the late Soviet

perestroika years, when Russia was hit hard by economic crises and mass rallies, elements like a monk with a laptop or the lavish icon backdrop are more typical of Vladimir Putin's era of Internet and growing power of the Orthodox Church.

The Mariinsky's internationally renowned music director Valery Gergiev is known as a Putin supporter and was one of the celebrities who recorded a promotional clip for his presidential campaign this winter.

Keeping the details of the Mariinsky's production under wraps until the last minute, Gergiev focused on its artistic merits in his latest remarks, hinting ever so slightly that Godunov's atrocities are mirrored in modern Russia.

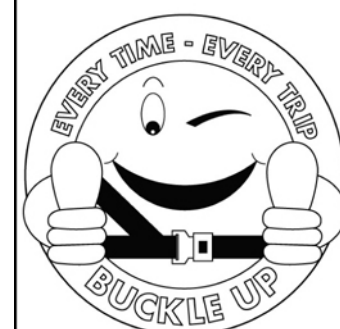
"I don't think that the opera world so much needs to do (a news reporter's) work," the maestro said at last week's press conference, "but that can happen in the hands of a strong director or artist."



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to



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Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

"You never get a second



Gouda Burger 2

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit





# EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

## June 8 - July 1



## Darijo Srna - Croatia's emotional talisman



ZAGRAB (AFP) - Luka Modric may be the creative genius of the Croatian side but it is captain Darijo Srna who provides the emotional drive that is one of the great strengths of the team.

The 30-year-old freescoring fullback -- who has found the net 19 times in 90 matches since his international debut in 2002 -- has assumed the mantle of Zvonimir Boban in being the inspirational leader of the team.

But whereas Boban's status with Croat nationalists arose from his iconic kicking of a Yugoslav policeman who was beating a Dinamo Zagreb fan during a riot at the league match with Red Star Belgrade in 1990, Srna's comes from a tough personal life.

Srna, who will feel like he is playing at his second home after moving to Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk 2003, is of Bosnian extraction but never met his father's parents as both were killed in World War II.

In a gruesome precursor of what was to come half a century later between Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims, his pregnant grandmother was burned to death by Serbian nationalist paramilitaries while his father was taken to safety by his grandfather.

However, the grandfather was to meet his end in a shootout towards the end of the war when he caught in crossfire while working as a waiter at a bar.

Srna's twice-married father Uzeir had a bohemian-like life, training as a baker before trying his hand at engineering and then joining the Yugoslav Army.

But he said life became difficult for the family when hos-

tilities broke out in the Balkans in 1990.

Darijo, born to a Croat mother and Bosnian Muslim father in Metkovic near Dubrovnik, had been offered a contract with Hajduk Split but it was a big risk, given the family's ethnicity and religion.

"It was a difficult time," Uzeir said in a 2008 interview with Britain's Guardian newspaper.

"And your name was so important. But the worst thing was that the coaches came and openly demanded money for Darijo to stay there. Luckily he was so talented that when the youth coaches saw him, they decided he had to stay."

He stayed for four years, winning two Croatian Cups before Shakhtar came calling, and despite offers from more mainstream European clubs, he opted for Donetsk.

He has not lived to regret the decision, collecting many medals along the way, including six league crowns. Srna also captained them to an historic UEFA Cup trophy -- the

last before it became the Europa League -- in 2009.

Despite his successful career, Srna has never forgotten the sacrifices his parents made for him nor those less fortunate than himself, in particular his brother Igor, who has Down's Syndrome.

Srna, who is married with a two year old daughter, has a tattoo across his heart reading "Igor". He dedicates all his goals to him and has been known to buy hundreds of tickets for orphans to attend Shakhtar games.

The player, who has another personal tattoo of a deer ("srna" in Croat) on his calf, has risen to the top against the odds but for him it is not his own skill which has made that possible.

"My father and my family mean everything to me," he told the Guardian. "I can't forget how they suffered while they were trying to find money for me during my days at Hajduk. "I know it's impossible to repay him for everything he has done for me. But, I have bought him a car and given him enough money to live normally now, while he is old. It's the least I can do."

## 'We don't like favourites tag,' says Ramos

SCHRUNS, Austria (AFP) - Reigning European and world champions Spain go into Euro 2012 as one of the favourites but it's a tag the players would rather do without, defender Sergio Ramos told AFP.

"We don't really like being given this role," he said at the squad's training camp in the alpine resort of Schruns, Austria.

"We're aware that everyone sees us as favourites, since we won the World Cup and the Euro but you can't live in the past. We need to prove ourselves every day and start again from scratch."

In their first Group C match on June 10, Spain will come up against 2006 world champions Italy, before also facing Ireland and Croatia.

"I don't think you can underestimate anyone," Ramos continued. "In this kind of competition, any team can create a surprise."

"That's why you have to

take everyone seriously because any team, maybe lesser known ones than Germany or the Netherlands, can sneak into the semi-final. So you have to take it step by step with a lot of calm."

With Barcelona captain Carles Puyol and prolific striker David Villa injured, Spain will be missing two players whose performances were crucial to the squad's 2010 World Cup and 2008 European championship wins.

"It's always rather sad news when these players who make a difference and are important for their club and for the national team are not here," noted Ramos. "We will miss them both. But it's also true that nobody is indispensable."

"We are lucky to have a great number of Spanish players who can make a difference and want a place in the squad."

## Netherlands Euro 2012 squad

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - The Netherlands 23-man squad for Euro 2012 announced on Saturday:

**Goalkeepers:** Tim Krul (Newcastle United/ENG), Maarten Stekelenburg (AS Roma/ITA), Michel Vorm (Swansea City/ENG)

**Defenders:** Khalid Boulahrouz (VfB Stuttgart/GER), Wilfred Bouma (PSV Eindhoven), John Heitinga (Everton/ENG), Joris Mathijsen (Malaga/ESP), Ron Vlaar (Feyenoord), Gregory van der Wiel (Ajax), Jetro Willems (PSV)

**Midfielders:** Mark van

Bommel (AC Milan/ITA), Nigel de Jong (Manchester City/ENG), Stijn Schaars (Sporting Lisbon/POR), Wesley Sneijder (Inter Milan/ITA), Kevin Strootman (PSV Eindhoven), Rafael van der Vaart (Tottenham Hotspur/ENG)

**Forwards:** Ibrahim Afellay (Barcelona/ESP), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke 04/GER), Luuk de Jong (FC Twente), Dirk Kuyt (Liverpool/ENG), Luciano Narsingh (SC Heerenveen), Robin van Persie (Arsenal/ENG), Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich/GER)

## Loew unveils final German squad for Euro

BERLIN (AFP) - Coach Joachim Loew on Monday unveiled his final 23-man squad for next month's European Championships, cutting four players from his initial pre-list.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who leaked five goals in an upset 5-3 loss to Switzerland in a friendly on the weekend, was omitted along with Stuttgart striker Cacau, Schalke's teenage midfielder Julian Draxler and Borussia Dortmund's Sven Bender.

Germany open their Group B campaign against Portugal on June 9 before playing the 1988 winners Netherlands four days later and rounding off against 1992 champions Denmark on June 17.

**Squad-Goalkeepers:** Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Tim Wiese (Werder Bremen), Ron-Robert Zieler (Hanover)

**Defenders:** Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich), Jerome Boateng (Bayern Munich), Benedikt Hoewedes (Schalke 04), Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund), Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich), Marcel Schmelzer (Borussia Dortmund), Per Mertesacker (Arsenal/ENG)

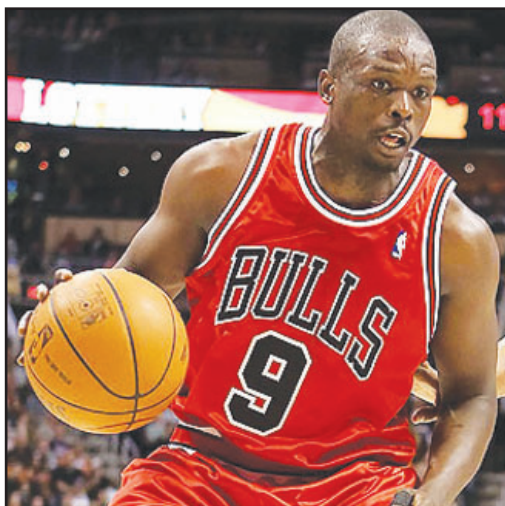
**Midfielders:** Lars Bender (Bayer Leverkusen), Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid/ESP), Andre Schuerle (Bayer Leverkusen), Sami Khedira (Real Madrid/ESP), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich), Mario Goetze (Borussia Dortmund), Ilkay Gundogan (Borussia Dortmund)

**Forwards:** Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich), Miroslav Klose (Lazio/ITA), Lukas Podolski (Arsenal/ENG), Marco Reus (Borussia Moenchengladbach)

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## Olympics: British to cover Deng Olympic insurance costs



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's basketball chiefs have vowed to cover the cost of Luol Deng's participation in the Olympics amid concerns over the high cost insurance for the Chicago Bulls star.

Deng has been nursing a wrist injury for the closing months of the NBA season, a pre-existing condition which means his lucrative \$27-million-dollar contract is not covered by the league's insurance during the Olympics.

It means British Basketball is likely to have to find around £300,000 pounds to insure Deng for the games this summer, according to some reports, an enormous amount for the relatively cash-strapped governing body.

British Basketball has already in the past paid addi-

tional insurance to cover an old back injury sustained by Deng, but cash for the new premium will have to be found by diverting resources from other programmes, officials said.

"Luol Deng is hugely committed to the British Basketball programme and he has maintained this stance, despite recent pressure for him not to play after injuring his wrist during the highly-demanding shortened NBA season," British Basketball performance director Chris Spice said.

"The insurance to cover Luol is always expensive due to his high value, and due to the back exclusion placed on him by the NBA's insurers some years ago.

"His wrist situation will make this exorbitant premium even more expensive and we will have to make sacrifices to

make this exorbitant premium even more expensive and we will have to make sacrifices to

## Djokovic untroubled, Federer levels Connors record

PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic's bid for an historic Grand Slam enjoyed the perfect French Open start on Monday as Roger Federer celebrated his 50th straight major with a record-equalling 233rd Grand Slam win.

But there was a huge scare for women's world number one Victoria Azarenka, who had to fight from a set and 4-0 down to defeat Italian veteran Alberta Brianti to avoid becoming the first top seed ever to lose in the opening round.

Djokovic, bidding to become only the third man to hold all four majors at the same time, and the first in 43 years, eased past Italian clay-court specialist Potito Starace 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-1.

The world number one already has the Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open crowns under wraps and a first French Open triumph in two weeks' time would make him the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to complete the sweep.

"It's a challenge and something to embrace and to enjoy. It's really too early to talk about getting my hands on the trophy, but it's definitely a goal. Anything is possible,"

all our other programmes if we are to make this happen. It is difficult, but there is only one Luol Deng and there is only one London 2012 Olympic Games.

Deng, 27, was born in Sudan but moved to London as a youngster from Egypt after his family were granted political asylum.

Deng has said he feels duty-bound to represent Britain in the Olympics because of the country's willingness to provide a refuge for his family.

"I'm going to play in the Olympics. What people don't understand, when we were in Egypt, we were refugees," he told ESPN recently.

"My family and I were homeless. For five years, out of all of the countries in the world that my father was contacting, the only one that took us in was England. So how do I not participate (in the Olympics)?

"If I don't play for them, knowing that I had the opportunity to, explain to me, how am I supposed to live with that for the rest of my life?"

said Djokovic, who next faces Slovenia's Blaz Kavcic.

Djokovic has yet to reach a Paris final, having fallen three times at the semi-final stage.

This year, he is scheduled to meet Federer in the last four.

Federer, the 2009 champion and four times runner-up to Rafael Nadal, endured few problems getting past Germany's Tomas Kamke, the world number 78, winning 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

The win, achieved on a sixth match point, took him level with Jimmy Connors' 30-year-old record of 233 Grand Slam match wins.

Monday's victory was also his 50th at Roland Garros having made his debut as a wildcard in 1999 where he went down to Australia's Pat Rafter in the first round.

Since that time, he has missed just one Grand Slam -- the 1999 US Open where he failed to qualify.

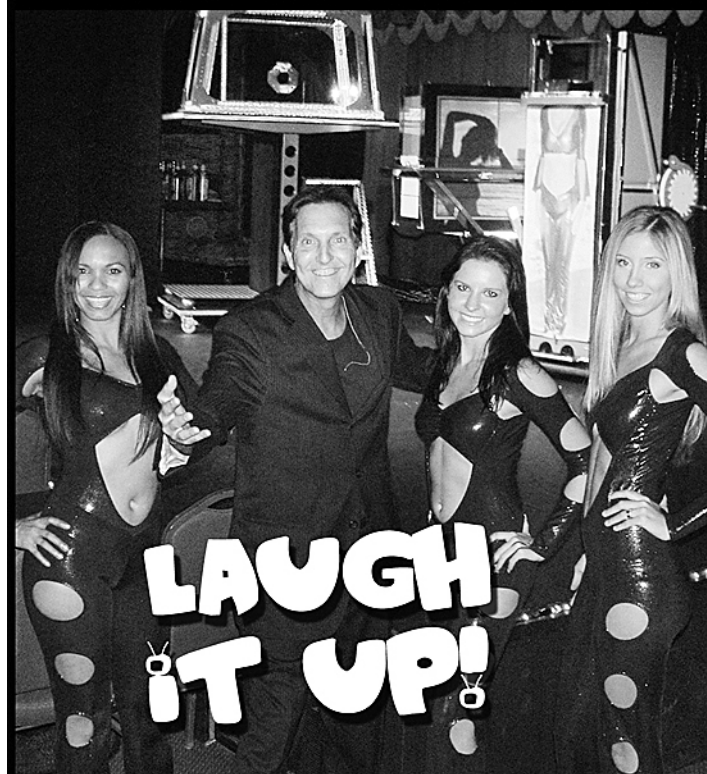
Defending champion Li Na of China advanced to the second round with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Romania's Sorana Cirstea, a quarter-finalist in 2009.

Li will face France's Stephanie Foretz Gacon for a place in the last 32.

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### MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	29	19	.604	--	WASHINGTON	29	19	.604	--
TAMPA	29	20	.592	0.5	NY METS	27	22	.551	2.5
YANKEES	26	21	.553	2.5	MIAMI	27	22	.551	2.5
BOSTON	24	24	.500	5.0	ATLANTA	26	24	.520	4.0
TORONTO	24	24	.500	5.0	PHILADELPHIA	26	24	.520	4.0
Central					Central				
CLEVELAND	26	21	.553	--	CINCINNATI	27	21	.562	--
CHICAGO	27	22	.551	--	ST. LOUIS	27	22	.551	0.5
DETROIT	23	25	.479	3.5	PITTSBURG	24	24	.500	3.0
KANSAS	19	27	.413	6.5	HOUSTON	22	25	.468	4.5
MINNESOTA	16	32	.333	10.5	MILWAUKEE	19	28	.404	7.5
West					West				
TEXAS	30	18	.625	--	LA DODGERS	32	15	.681	--
LA ANGELES	24	25	.490	6.5	SAN FRANCISCO	25	23	.521	7.5
OAKLAND	22	27	.449	8.5	ARIZONA	22	26	.458	10.5
SEATTLE	21	29	.420	10.0	COLORADO	17	29	.370	14.5
					SAN DIEGO	17	33	.340	16.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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## NBA: Ginobili shines as Spurs rally to beat Thunder



Manu Ginobili (20) came from the bench to score a team-high 26 points for the San Antonio Spurs, who maintain their unbeaten run in the ongoing NBA playoff campaign.

AFP photo

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Manu Ginobili scored 26 points and the San Antonio Spurs turned it on in the fourth quarter to beat Oklahoma City 101-98 Sunday in the first game of the NBA Western Conference Finals.

The Spurs stretched their winning streak to 19 games and moved one game closer to booking their berth in the NBA Finals.

The winner of this best-of-seven series will face either the Miami Heat or Boston

Celtics for the NBA title. San Antonio host game two on Tuesday.

The Spurs trailed by nine points going into the fourth quarter, when they turned the tables and out-scored the Thunder 39-27.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 27 points and Russell Westbrook added 17, but they just could not stop the Spurs in the final period.

"It was a hard-fought ball game," said Thunder coach Scott Brooks. "Nothing to be

ashamed of.

"They're playing the best basketball in the league," Brooks said of San Antonio. "And we were right there."

Point guard Tony Parker scored 18 points with six assists for San Antonio, while Tim Duncan scored 16 and grabbed 11 rebounds.

With Argentine Ginobili leading the way, the Spurs bench contributed 52 points.

The Thunder closed the third quarter on a 10-3 scoring run to take a 71-62 lead.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was caught by video cameras exhorting his players to get "nasty".

"I said that? In the heat of the game sometimes stuff comes out of my mouth and it's embarrassing," Popovich said.

"I thought that we were playing for most of the first half and even the beginning of the third quarter a bit unconfidently, a bit on our heels, a bit unsure of ourselves.

"So I talked to them about they've got to get a little bit uglier, a little bit nasty, play with a little more fiber -- meaning you've got to take it to these guys, you've got to drive it, you've got to shoot it,

you can't hold it," the coach said.

"We needed to be active and aggressive -- and we got that way in the fourth quarter."

"He just wanted to make sure we played with more energy," Parker said of Popovich. "They were playing with a lot more energy than us in the third quarter, and we were hesitating a little bit."

Parker's jump shot tied it at 73-73 early in the fourth as the Spurs delivered an 18-3 scoring run that put them up 82-76.

From there the Thunder did not get closer than four points, until James Harden drained a three-pointer as time expired to narrow the final margin.

Ginobili made 9 of 14 shots, including three of his

five three-point attempts. In the fourth quarter he made all three of his shots from the floor and all five of his free-throws.

"That's Manu's game," Popovich said. "He's a scorer. That's what he's done for us his whole career. Without that, we have a tough time winning."

But Parker said the Spurs - who were playing their first game in a week after completing their second-round sweep of the Los Angeles Clippers last Sunday -- would have to improve to hold off the Thunder.

"Oklahoma, they're a very, very good team," Parker said. "I think we're going to have to play a lot better if we want to win game two. If we play the same way we're not going to win game two."

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